

Minister for Aboriginal Affairs
Minister for Health
Minister for Veterans' Affairs

Level 5, 4 Parliament Square Hobart, TAS 7000 Australia
GPO Box 123 HOBART TAS 7001 Australia
Phone:
Email:



26 MAR 2025

Senator Paul Scarr
Chair, Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee
Parliament House

Email: FirstNationswomenchildren.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Senator Scarr

Request for correction to the Report on missing and murdered First Nations women and children

I sincerely thank you and members of the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs References Committee for your important work researching the issue of missing and murdered First Nations women and children. I appreciate the work would have been difficult for everyone involved.

This well-written report is a difficult yet vital read for anyone involved in improving life outcomes for First Nations people, especially women and children, and those involved in related services and advocacy. The number of families impacted is astounding and alarming and I am thankful information is now readily available to inform responses.

The Report on missing and murdered First Nations women and children notes the challenges collecting and validating relevant data across states and territories. This challenge is perhaps reflected in Tasmanian data discrepancies.

Data provided through the Tasmanian Government submission to the Inquiry stated that, in 2021, there was:

- one Aboriginal woman recorded as missing in Tasmania
- no Aboriginal children recorded as missing in Tasmania
- no Aboriginal women or children recorded as murdered in Tasmania from 1994 to 2022.

In late 2024, Tasmania Police reviewed this data and confirmed its accuracy for 2021 according to Tasmania Police information systems.

There remains:

- one Aboriginal woman (transgender) recorded as long-term missing in Tasmania (the same woman reported as missing in the 2021 submission, who was reported to Tasmania Police as missing on 13 October 2017)
- no Aboriginal children recorded as missing
- no Aboriginal women or children recorded as murdered in Tasmania from 1994 to 2022.

However, the Report on Missing and Murdered First Nations Women and Children states in 2021, there were:

- no First Nations women recorded as missing in Tasmania
- two First Nations children recorded as missing in Tasmania
- no First Nations women or children recorded as murdered in Tasmania in the period 1994 to 2022.

Table 1 shows the data provided in the Tasmanian Government submission to the Inquiry and recently confirmed, and the data included in the Report.

Table 1: Data provided by the Tasmanian Government to the Inquiry into Missing and Murdered First Nations Women and Children and data included in the Report.

| | Data provided in the Tasmanian Government submission | Data provided in the Report |
|---|---|------------------------------------|
| Missing Aboriginal women | 1 | 0 |
| Missing Aboriginal children | 0 | 2 |
| Murdered Aboriginal women and children | 0 | 0 |

I am hoping you can arrange for the Tasmanian data in the Report to be corrected, including in Figures 2.1 and 2.2. This is important out of respect to Tasmanian Aboriginal people, including those with a relationship with the long-term missing Aboriginal woman, to avoid undue angst about missing Aboriginal children in Tasmania and to accurately reflect the situation here.

When the Report has been corrected, I will arrange for a link to be provided to it through the new Tasmanian Government Closing the Gap web pages under development.

Thank you for considering this request and thank you again for your valuable work.

Yours sincerely

 Hon Jacqui Petrusma MP
Minister for Aboriginal Affairs